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CPYRGHT **Full Light of What Publicity?**

Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, made a speech before the State Chamber of Commerce here in Richmond last week. His talk was as interesting and as pleasant and as witty as the gentleman himself.

But one or two observations do suggest themselves. Mr. Dulles early in his talk was discussing the basic difference between the Communist form of government and our own. The Communist world, he said, thrives on secrecy while "we in the free world continue along, with the full light of publicity on what we are doing."

This observation has a curious sound, coming from the director of an American governmental agency that operates on a policy of keeping the American people in total ignorance of what it is doing. No reasonable person would suggest that the CIA should conduct its work in any "full light of publicity," but neither is it necessary for the CIA to operate in total darkness. By law, the American people are prohibited from knowing how much of their money the CIA spends, how many persons it employs, whether it wastes funds or spends them efficiently. The Central Intelligence Agency is exempt from all the rules of accountability that apply even to the Atomic Energy Commission and the defense establishment. Whether it is doing a good job or a poor job, the American people do not know—and neither they, nor their press, nor their Congress can find out.

Legislation now is pending that would

set up a joint congressional committee for the CIA, just as a joint congressional committee exists as a check on the Atomic Energy Commission. This is sound legislation and should be passed. Mr. Dulles is a charming fellow, but he has powers that, in our view, are far more consistent with the sinister powers of a Gestapo or a Russian NKVD than with the traditions of a free America.